

will never become second-class citizens. Both women and men should have the right to vote, access to equal opportunities, and equal treatment under the law. I am particularly concerned that final language in the constitution could limit women's rights, including in matters such as divorce, child custody, and inheritance.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 5548, the "Empowerment of Iraqi Women Act of 2006," which would establish an Iraqi Women's Fund to help Iraqi women and girls in the areas of political, legal, and human rights, health care, education, training, security, and shelter, and it would authorize \$22,500,000 in each fiscal year 2007, 2008, and 2009 for this fund. I have met with several delegations of Iraqi women during my trips to Iraq and here in Washington. I am always inspired by their strength and courage to speak out in support of equality, even in the face of danger. While these women have hope, they understand that the future is very uncertain.

I know my colleagues join me in expressing our strong support and solidarity with the women of Iraq as they fight for the rights to which they are entitled. I urge a "yes" vote on this important resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 784, a resolution that would celebrate Radio Al Mahaba, the first and only radio station for women in Iraq. Located in a country that only just recently employed a democratic system, Radio Al Mahaba is a true symbol of the rights associated with that system.

In Iraq's history, women were typically denied their basic rights. Radio Al Mahaba, which means "Voice of Women," first went on the air on April 1, 2005 and represents just the opposite of this norm. It has become a forum where women can voice and discuss opinions and practice their freedoms of speech and the press. The station offers speaking opportunities for local volunteers and female journalists. It has been an effective tool not only to reach out to women throughout Iraq, but also to encourage greater female participation in the electoral process. Thus, the establishment of Radio Al Mahaba was truly a step in the right direction towards establishing autonomy and liberties for women in Iraq.

Moreover, Radio Al Mahaba can be a key source for open communication among the people of Iraq, delivering information, such as news alerts, when necessary. It also represents a positive result of the U.S. presence in Iraq.

Today, it is critical that we commend Radio Al Mahaba for its inspiring work and encourage it to stay on the air for years to come. I commend Congresswoman MCCARTHY for proposing H. Res. 784, and I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 784, the resolution that commends Iraq's first and only radio station for women.

As the women of Iraq continue to fight for their rightful place in society, we must recognize the avenues they have engineered for themselves that provide the forum for practicing their right to be heard.

Established in 2005, the radio station is appropriately named al-Mahaba, which means "love" in Arabic, is the first and only independent women's radio station in Iraq. The station was funded by UNIFEM, a United Na-

tions agency that supports women's issues, and is not affiliated to any political party.

Having returned from a recent Codel trip to Iraq, I was very fortunate to have met with women representatives from the radio station who expressed their commitment to women's issues. These strong and courageous women understand much too well the importance of taking a stand against oppression and know they have found a new sense of empowerment.

The station's purpose is to reconcile women's rights, which have been arbitrarily taken away by political regimes; and to encourage them to face their fears and learn to assert themselves as women.

I support the format facilitated by the radio station because it provides women with a long overdue venue where they can tell their stories, share their ambitions and express their fears.

When calling the radio station, these women address a wide range of personal and political issues that have a direct affect on them as women. The format allows them to candidly share enduring numerous beatings from their husbands; share their frustrations with the consistent pressure from religious groups to wear the hijab; and express their fear of having a strict form of Islamic Law imbedded in their society.

For women who feel as forgotten members of society, the radio station provides them a haven to freely express themselves without fear of judgment or persecution. These women endure immense atrocities and oppressions and we must support and recognize their efforts to assert themselves as strong voices in Iraq's society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WAMP). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 784.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3504. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit the solicitation or acceptance of tissue from fetuses gestated for research purposes, and for other purposes.

#### CONVEYANCE OF REVERSIONARY INTEREST OF UNITED STATES IN CERTAIN LANDS TO CLINT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 860) to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 860

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to section 2, the Secretary of State shall execute and file in the appropriate office such instrument as may be necessary to release the reversionary interest of the United States in the land referred to in subsection (b).

(b) LAND DESCRIBED.—The land described in this subsection consists of Tracts 4-B, 5, and 7, Block 14, San Elizario Grant, County of El Paso, State of Texas.

#### SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

The release under section 1 shall be made upon condition that the Clint Independent School District in the County of El Paso, State of Texas, use any proceeds received from the disposal of such land for public educational purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 860, a bill to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District of El Paso County, Texas.

In 1940, the Clint District School received 20 acres of land that the United States Government had obtained by treaty with Mexico. The Department of State retained reversionary interests in the parcel. Because of legislation passed in 1957, Clint was able to trade the land for another piece of land in which the U.S. Government also had a reversionary interest. The Clint School District still owns that piece of land.

During the 105th Congress, Congressman REYES introduced legislation, a similar bill to the one before us, which would have provided for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in this land to the Clint Independent School District. This legislation became public law number 105-169 on April 24, 1998, but a drafting error led to the misidentification of the land in question and thus rendered this public law obsolete. This bill before us, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 860, corrects that error.

Mr. Speaker, because the land in question still lies outside of Clint's boundaries, regulations prevent the school district from developing it. H.R. 860 will allow Clint to sell its land in

order to buy property within its district boundaries that can be used for public educational purposes.

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This legislation has been approved by the State Department and approved by the House International Relations Committee and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, and yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for all of her efforts. I want to especially single out the hard work of my good friend and colleague from Texas, SILVESTRE REYES, for his steadfast efforts to help the Clint Independent School District improve the quality of education for its students.

Mr. Speaker, this bill seeks to correct a technical error in legislation which the 105th Congress passed. That legislation should have relinquished the Federal Government's reversionary interest in a tract of land that is owned by the Clint Independent School District.

Unfortunately, the wrong coordinates for the land were included in the bill. This bill, H.R. 860, completes the transfer of property rights for the school district so that it can proceed with a planned sale of the land.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 860.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from New York for yielding me time, and my good friend from Florida, the gentlewoman, for her support in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 860, a bill to provide for the conveyance of reversionary interests of the United States in certain lands in my district of El Paso County, Texas to the Clint Independent School District.

The passage of H.R. 860 comes on the heels of an interesting footnote in our history. In 1940, Clint Independent School District received 20 acres of land that the United States Government had obtained from Mexico through the Convention of February 1, 1933.

In the treaty, the two governments agreed to cooperate in the construction and maintenance of the Rio Grande Rectification Project, which ultimately straightened and reinforced 155 miles of river boundary flowing through the increasingly developed El Paso, Texas-Juarez, Chihuahua area.

In addition to helping provide a more stable international boundary, the project also helped occasional flooding in that region. After giving the land to the school district, the Department of State retained reversionary interest in the parcel. In 1957 Federal statutes gave Clint Independent School District

the ability to trade that piece of land for another, which it did, acquiring a separate parcel in which the United States had also retained reversionary interest.

Today, Clint Independent School District still owns that one piece of land. Unfortunately, because the land in question lies outside of Clint's boundaries, district regulations prevent the school district from developing it.

H.R. 860 will allow Clint to sell its land in order to buy property within its own district boundaries. All proceeds from such a sale must and will be used for public educational purposes. This legislation has been approved by the State Department and reported favorably by the House International Relations Committee. Of the nine school districts in El Paso County, Clint is the largest in square mileage, encompassing a diverse area in the fast-growing east El Paso County.

The district itself is one of the most rapidly expanding in Texas, with an estimated student population of 9,000-plus, a figure that is expected to double within the next 5 years.

All together, the district has 12 campuses, three high schools, two middle schools, one junior high school and six elementary schools. This bill will afford Clint the ability to help keep pace with its growth and help the district provide its students a high-quality educational experience.

I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE of Illinois and Mr. LANTOS of California, as well as my friend from New York and my friend from Florida, for reporting this beneficial piece of legislation out of their committee.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank our leader, Ms. PELOSI, and minority whip, Mr. HOYER for their support and assistance in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 860.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WAMP). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 860.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2389, PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY (during consideration of H.R. 860), from the Committee on

Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-577) on the resolution (H. Res. 920) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2389) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### CONGRATULATING ISRAEL'S MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 435) congratulating Israel's Magen David Adom Society for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 435

Whereas international humanitarian law is, quintessentially, about principle, establishing standards of conduct that can not be breached under any circumstance, or for any calculation of political efficacy or utility;

Whereas the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a worldwide institution in which all national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies have equal status, whose mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, without discrimination;

Whereas the Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) Society is the national humanitarian society in the State of Israel and has performed heroically, aiding all in need of assistance, on a purely humanitarian basis, without bias, even those responsible for acts of horrific violence against Israeli civilians;

Whereas since 1949 the Magen David Adom Society has been refused admission into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation and has been relegated to observer status without a vote because it has used the Red Shield of David, the only such national organization denied membership in the Movement;

Whereas the red cross symbol was intended as the visible expression of the neutral status enjoyed by the medical services of the armed forces and the protection thus conferred, and there is not, and has never been, any implicit religious connection in the cross;

Whereas since its establishment in 1930, the Magen David Adom Society, because it does not use either a red cross or a red crescent, has been prevented from full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Federation;

Whereas Israel acceded to the Geneva Conventions in 1951 with a reservation specifying their intent to continue to use the Magen David Adom;

Whereas international consultations among nations and national Red Cross Societies ensued until 1999, when the International Committee of the Red Cross formally called for adoption of a protocol to the Geneva Conventions creating a third neutral symbol; allowing the use of either the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, or the third neutral symbol; and allowing for the third neutral symbol to be used in combination with other national Red Cross Society symbols—including the Magen David Adom;

Whereas a diplomatic conference to adopt this proposal into the Geneva Conventions